REPORT

RESPECTING THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM

OF

EDINBURGH,

FOR

1813,

Presented by the Managers to the General Meeting of Contributors, held annually on the last Monday of January, in terms of the Royal Charter.

31*st January* 1814.

The Hon. Baron CLERK *in the Chair.*

SOON after the last General Meeting, held on the 30th of January 1813, considerable progress was made, in fitting up the two wings of the Asylum, intended for the accommodation of Patients of the Middle and Higher Classes. By the beginning of May, these wings were ready for the reception

ception of a few Patients; and the Managers came to the resolution, that they should be opened, as soon as proper Keepers should be appointed for the management of the Institution.

It was an object of the utmost importance, to obtain a Superintendant in whom confidence could be placed. With this view, they inserted advertisements in the newspapers; in consequence of which, they received several offers, from men well recommended. After mature consideration, they gave the preference to Mr JOHN HUGHES of London, at that time one of the keepers of St Luke's Hospital, of whose character and conduct they received very favourable accounts from Mr DUNSTAN, Master of St Luke's, from Dr SUTHERLAND, Physician to that Institution, from Sir GILBERT BLANE, and some other respectable characters in London. They accordingly brought Mr HUGHES from London, about midsummer, and they appointed his sister, Mrs M. HUGHES, who came from London along with him, to be Matron to the Asylum.

The Managers are happy in being able to say, that, from the conduct of Mr HUGHES and his sister, since they have been in the Asylum, they have much reason to be satisfied with the choice they have made, both of a Superintendant and Matron.

Soon after the arrival of Mr HUGHES in Edinburgh, a circular letter was sent to the Medical Practitioners

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Practitioners in the City, informing them, that a few Patients might now be received into the Asylum, at the rate of One Guinea per week; and the first Patient was admitted on the 19th of July 1813.

Since that time, five others have been admitted. Of these six, one has been dismissed recovered; another has been removed by her relations, as they could not afford to pay the board required; and the other four still remain in the Asylum.

From these six cases, though few in number, demonstrative evidence has already been afforded of the very great benefit which may be obtained from this Institution, both as affording accommodation to the Public, and as serving the cause of humanity, under circumstances, perhaps, the most deplorable to which the human species can be reduced. It has accordingly been a subject of deep regret to the Managers, that they have not been able to extend the blessings of this Institution to to the indigent, from want of funds, and from want of more accommodation. They have been obliged to refuse admission to several paupers, whose situation has been represented as highly calamitous; and it is, perhaps, singular, that some of these applications have come from parishes, which, although situated in the Eastern District of Scotland, and not among the least opulent parishes, have hitherto made no collection at their church-

church-doors, for the erection of this important building.

In the parts of the Asylum already finished, ten or twelve Patients may be commodiously accommodated, and have every chance of recovery, which either the physical or moral treatment of Insanity can afford, under the direction of experienced Practitioners, and of an attentive and humane Keeper. But, from the state of the funds, no Patient can yet be admitted at a lower rate than One Guinea per week; and considerable aid from the Public is still required, before a portion of the building, already begun, and which is intended for the reception of patients at the lowest rate, can be completed and furnished. This portion, also, when finished, will afford to Patients of the Middle and Highest Class, greater conveniencies than they can at present enjoy, particularly in the way of hot and cold baths.

From these circumstances, it is the earnest wish of the Managers, that proper steps could be devised by the General Meeting of Contributors, for obtaining some aid, to finish the buildings already begun, from many Towns, Parishes, and opulent Individuals, who, although intimately connected with the Metropolis of Scotland, have not yet contributed any thing towards building the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum.

As soon as sufficient funds can be obtained, further progress will be made in the building; but,

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in the mean time, it will be the aim of the Managers, to render those parts of the Asylum already finished as useful as possible to the Public, and as conducive as possible to the relief of unfortunate Lunatics. With these views, they have already bestowed considerable attention, in framing proper Regulations for the management of the Asylum;—not only for the general government of the house, but also for directing the conduct of the Superintendant and servants, of the Medical Practitioners, and of the Managers themselves, as weekly visitors. Of these Regulations, printed copies, accompanying this Report, are now presented to the General Meeting of Contributors, to be sanctioned by them, if they shall think proper.

The Managers shall only observe, that these Regulations were not adopted by them till after deliberate consideration, and till after affording an opportunity to every member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh for suggesting any alterations which he might think useful.

Under the regulations now submitted to the Meeting, and with the buildings already fitted up, the Managers flatter themselves, that, during the course of the present year, the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum will be productive of no inconsiderable benefit. But they cannot conclude their Report, without again observing, that these benefits will

will be very greatly increased to patients of every description, if they can soon obtain such assistance from the Public, as will enable them to finish, and furnish a portion of the building already begun, which is more particularly intended for the accommodation of patients who may be received at the lowest rate of board.

It was agreed by the General Meeting of Contributors, that the Printed Regulations presented by the Managers should be adopted and observed during the course of the year 1814; *and that they should again be taken into consideration at the next annual meeting, to be held on the last Monday of January* 1815.

On the suggestion of the Managers, the following Proposals, for endeavouring to obtain aid from the benevolent, for finishing a part of the building already begun, which is intended for the reception of pauper Lunatics, were unanimously adopted.

PROPOSALS

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FOR

Promoting the Success and Usefulness of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, adopted by the General Meeting of Contributors, 31st January 1814.

FROM the printed list of Subscribers, it appears, that contributions for erecting a commodious building for a Lunatic Asylum at Edinburgh, have been received from many individuals, both at home and abroad; but from the same list it also appears, that great numbers in Edinburgh, and its neighbourhood, from whom some aid may reasonably be expected, have yet contributed nothing towards this useful undertaking. With the view of obtaining this aid, the following Proposals were adopted.

1. That it be recommended to all the wellwishers of this Institution, to point out to those of their acquaintance, whose names do not stand among the list of Contributors, the great advantage

tage which would result from donations being given as soon as possible.

2. As there is reason to suppose, that many of the Scottish Nobility will be interested for an Institution, at once both honourable and advantageous to the Metropolis of their native kingdom, That the Duke of Buccleuch, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Honourable Baron Clerk, and Bailie Trotter, be requested to take such steps as they may think most advisable for promoting the subscription among the Nobility.

3. That the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Adam Rolland, Esq. the Honourable Henry Erskine, the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General, Harry Davidson, Esq. W. S. and John Tait, Esq. W. S., be requested to act as a Committee, for promoting subscriptions among the Members of the College of Justice.

4. That the Reverend Dr Davidson, the Reverend Dr Baird, Henry Jardine, Esq. the Reverend Dr Johnston, the Reverend Mr Aitchison, the Right Reverend Bishop Sandford, and the Reverend A. Alison, LL. D. be requested to act as a Committee, for making a fresh application to those Parishes and Congregations, in the Eastern District of Scotland, who have yet made no collection for building the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum,

lum, but whose poor might be materially benefited by it, if money could be obtained for finishing a portion of the building already begun, and which is intended for the reception of lunatics at the lowest rate of board.

5. That Gilbert Innes, Esq. Samuel Anderson, Esq. Robert Scott-Moncrieff, Esq. Thomas Williamson, Esq., and A. Cruickshanks, Esq. be requested to act as a Committee, for promoting subscriptions among the Merchant-Company, opulent citizens and inhabitants, whose names are not yet to be found in the list of Contributors.

6. That the Deacons of the different Incorporations in Edinburgh be requested to promote the subscription among those Societies over which they at present preside.

7. That Andrew Wood, Esq. James Law, Esq. Dr Duncan *senior*, Dr Stuart, and Dr Berry, be requested to promote the subscription among those Medical Practitioners in Edinburgh, and the Eastern District of Scotland, who have yet contributed nothing to the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum.

8. That Messrs Thomas Parker, G. Millar, and Christopher Anderson, be requested to take such measures as they may think most advisable, for promoting

promoting the subscription among certain Societies of Friends with which they are connected.

9. That each of the above Committees be empowered to assume into their number any other Nobleman or Gentleman, whose exertions they think may aid their endeavours in promoting an establishment in which every man of feeling must be deeply interested.

By direction of the Managers of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, there was lately published, by A. Constable and Co. and other Booksellers, *A Short Account of the Rise, Progress and present State of the Lunatic Asylum at Edinburgh: To which is annexed a complete List of all the Contributions received, whether from Towns, Parishes or Individuals, for the Erection of a proper Building, for the Cure of Insanity, in the metropolis of Scotland.*

From the printed List, it appears, that the sum received by Alexander Bonar, Esq. the Treasurer to the Asylum, at the 1st of January 1814, amounted to L. 7907 : 5 : 8. Most of that money has

has been expended on the purchase of ground, and on the buildings already erected. It is computed, that about L. 5000 more will be necessary for finishing, and furnishing in a proper manner, the buildings already begun. But after that is done, the Managers confidently hope, that the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, like those excellent institutions of a similar nature at York, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places in England, will be able, by the board allowed for Patients, to support itself.

Subscriptions are received, and receipts granted, by ALEXANDER BONAR, Esq. at the Banking-House of Messrs RAMSAYS, BONARS and Co. Royal Exchange; and Subscription-papers are in the hands of many different Gentlemen, who, from motives of humanity, have been prompted to interest themselves for an Establishment generally allowed to be very much wanted in Edinburgh.

LIST

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS—Continued.

Amount of Subscriptions received prior to the 1st of January 1814, L. 7907 5 8

SUBSCRIPTIONS during 1814.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS—Continued.

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